



Economic Overview And Outlook: Montana

JOBS

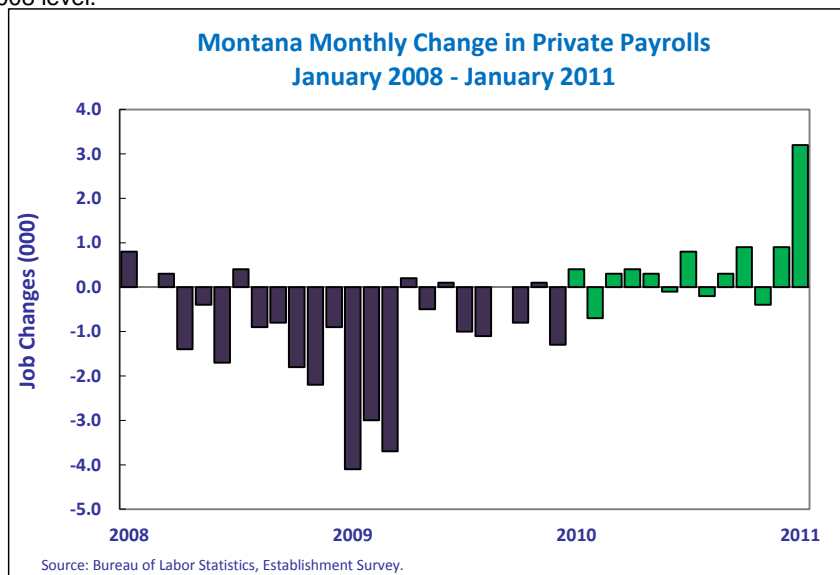
- In January, the private sector gained jobs nationwide for 11 consecutive months.
- The President's Council of Economic Advisers estimates that investments made through the Recovery Act have boosted employment in Montana by 10,000 jobs through the 3rd quarter of 2010.
- In Montana, private sector employment fell by 6.9 percent from January 2008 to February 2010. Since February 2010, private sector employment has grown by 1.9 percent.
- In Montana, employees in the construction, mining, and manufacturing sectors faced the largest job losses (as a percent of employment within an industry) over the recession. Since the beginning of 2010, the following sectors in Montana have experienced the greatest employment increases: mining; leisure and hospitality; and other services.*
- As the economy recovers from the Great Recession, service-providing industries are projected to add the most jobs between 2008 and 2018, with the largest gains in professional and business services, education, health care and social assistance, and State and local government. Within the goods-producing sector of the economy, only the construction industry is projected to add jobs above its 2008 level.

EMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Montana was 7.5 percent in January 2011, up 3.9 percentage points from December 2007, surpassing its most recent peak of 7.4 percent reached in December 2010.
- 37,000 Montana residents were counted among the unemployed in Montana during January 2011.

EARNINGS

- Between the start of the recession in the 4th quarter of 2007 and the 3rd quarter of 2009, inflation-adjusted total personal income in the United States declined 2.2 percent. Most recently, in the 3rd quarter of 2010, total personal income is 0.2 percent below its 4th quarter of 2007 level.



- Real per capita personal income (in 2005 \$) in Montana was \$32,256.70 in the 3rd quarter of 2010, up from \$32,007.50 in the 3rd quarter of 2008.

HOUSING

- National home prices, including distressed sales, saw a decrease of 5.7 percent in January 2011 from January 2010 compared to a 4.7 percent decrease in December. In Montana, home prices saw a decrease of 8.9 percent in January 2011 from January 2010 following December's year over year decrease of 7.3 percent.
- The median price of single-family homes in Montana was \$178,188 in the second quarter of 2010, compared to \$180,176 nationwide.
- As of the 4th quarter of 2010, 2.0 percent of all mortgages, including 11.9 percent of subprime mortgages, were in foreclosure in Montana.
- Housing starts in Montana totaled 960 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in January 2011, a decrease of 23.2 percent from December.
- Within the West census region, which includes Montana, sales of new single-family homes totaled 66,000 units in January 2011, a decrease of 36.5 percent from December. Sales of existing single-family homes increased 6.9 percent to 1,240,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from December to January 2011.

* For Montana-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Montana office:
<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/databrowsing/?PAGEID=4&SUBID=190>

How Does Montana Compare To Other States?

Workers across the country were hard hit during the Great Recession. Although labor markets in many states have started recovering, employment in most states still remains below pre-recession levels. The chart below allows you to compare Montana to other states using two metrics.

The current unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor market conditions faced by residents, while the proportion of jobs lost within Montana since the start of the recession (shown along the vertical axis) measures the toll the recession took on the job supply in Montana.

States falling in the upper right quadrant have lost a disproportionate share of jobs, relative to the total United States, and have unemployment rates higher than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower left quadrant have unemployment rates and job losses (or even gains) lower than the national average.



STATE QUICK FACTS

		Montana	United States
Unemployment Rates	January 2008	3.7%	5.0%
	January 2009	5.6%	7.8%
	January 2010	7.0%	9.7%
	January 2011	7.5%	9.0%
Percent of Population Who Are Veterans	2009	9.6%	7.1%
Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2009	9.8%	8.9%
Median Household Income	2007	\$ 45,160	\$ 51,965
	(2009 \$) 2009	\$ 40,437	\$ 49,777
Poverty Rate	2007	13.0%	12.5%
	2009	13.5%	14.3%
No Health Insurance	2007	15.6%	15.3%
	2009	15.4%	16.7%